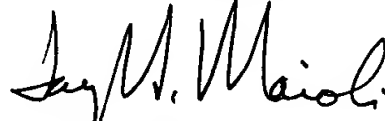


there.

Accordingly, the amendments to the specification are made to place the application in idiomatic English, and the claims are amended to place them in better condition for examination.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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JHM/AVF/pmc

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

--A recording medium for a disc [etc. according to the present invention comprises at least] having a first recording region in which a first portion of audio signals supplied is recorded and a second recording region in which a second portion of audio signals supplied is recorded. The first and second portions of the audio signals recorded in the first and second recording regions are synthesized and reproduced or selected and reproduced to realize variegated audio reproduction.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-36 have been amended as follows:

--1. (Amended) A recording medium having [n] a plurality of recording regions [adapted] for recording [n] a plurality of partial portions[, from one partial portion to another, from] of sampled data generated [on] by sampling audio signals from a sound source[, based on] at a [pre-set] predefined sampling frequency, wherein said [n] plurality of partial portions [including the entire] includes said audio signals in their entirety and said recoding is performed from one said partial portion to an other said partial portion.

--2. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said [pre-set] predefined sampling frequency is 44.1 kHz.

--3. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said recording medium is reproducible by a disc reproducing apparatus employing a light beam having a wavelength of approximately 780 nm.

--4. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1 [having], further comprising first and second recording layers [in] within which said [sampling] data is separated into two said partial portions for recording.

--5. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of partial portions are independent partial portions [making up said audio signals].

--6. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of partial portions represent accompaniment music of a lyric.

--7. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein [there is recorded] discrimination data for discriminating [the] a combination of said [n] plurality of partial portions is recorded.

--8. (Amended) A recording apparatus for recording audio signals on a recording medium, said recoding medium having a plurality [n] of recording regions[, where $n \geq 2$], comprising:

sampling means for sampling signals separated into [plural n] a plurality of partial portions from audio signals from a sound source at a predefined sampling frequency, said [n] plurality of partial portions including [the] said audio signals in their entirety[,]; and

recording means for recording digital data obtained from said sampling means in said [n] plurality of recording regions of said recording medium.

--9. (Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said [pre-set] predefined sampling frequency is 44.1 kHz.

--10. (Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said audio signals are [recorded on said recording medium to be] reproducible by a disc reproducing apparatus employing a light beam having a wavelength of approximately 780 nm.

--11. (Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said recording medium is a disc-shaped recording medium having first and second recording layers [in] within which said sampling data is separated into two said partial portions [which] that are recorded.

--12. (Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said plurality of partial portions are independent partial portions [making up said audio signals].

--13. (Amended) The recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said plurality of partial portions represent accompaniment music of a lyric.

--14. (Amended) A recording method for recording audio signals on a recording medium, said recording medium having a plurality [n] of recording regions[, where $n \geq 2$], said method comprising the steps of:

sampling signals separated into [plural] a plurality of partial portions from audio signals from a sound source [with] at a [pre-set] predefined sampling frequency, said [n] plurality of partial portions including [the] said audio signals in their entirety[,]; and

recording digital data obtained from said sampling means in said [n] plurality of recording regions of said recording medium.

--15. (Amended) A reproducing apparatus for reproducing audio signals from a recording medium on which sampled data generated [on] by sampling audio signals from a sound source at a [pre-set] predetermined sampling frequency are recorded in [n] a plurality of recording regions as [the] said sampled data are separated into [n] a plurality of partial portions

including [the] said audio signals in their entirety, said reproducing apparatus comprising:

readout means for reading [out] signals from said [n] plurality of recording regions of said recording medium; and

control means for controlling whether signals [of] on each of said [n] plurality of recording regions read [out] by said readout means are to be reproduced [selectively] individually or signals of [at least two] a plurality of [the entire] said regions are to be synthesized and reproduced.

--16. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus [for a recording medium] according to claim 15, wherein said readout means reads [out the entire] said signals from each of said plurality of recording regions[,] and said control means [synthesizing] synthesizes data obtained from [the respective] each of said plurality of recording regions to reproduce [the] said synthesized data.

--17. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus [for a recording medium] according to claim 16, wherein said readout means includes a plurality of readout mechanisms.

--18. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus [for a recording medium] according to claim 16, wherein n represents a number of said recording regions, said readout means uses a [sole] single readout mechanism for reading [out] said [n] plurality of recording regions, and [wherein] said control

means causes said readout means to read [out the] said plurality of recording regions at a rate not less than n times [the] a rate required by audio signals recorded in [the] said respective regions to buffer [the read-out] said read audio signals to output [the] said buffered signals when [the] a volume of [the] said buffered signals reaches a [pre-set] predetermined volume.

--19. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus [for a recording medium] according to claim 16, wherein[, if] when said recording medium is a disc-shaped recording medium having two recording layers[, with $n = 2$], said control means uses said readout means to reproduce [one] a first layer, said control means in reproducing [another] an other layer shifts to a point temporally previous to a replay end time point of said [one] first layer to initiate reproduction, and said control means shifts after reproduction of said other layer to a point temporally posterior to [the] said replay end time point [shifting] to shift reproduction to said [one] first layer.

--20. (Amended) A reproducing method for reproducing audio signals from a recording medium on which sampled data generated [on] by sampling audio signals from a sound source at a [pre-set] predetermined sampling frequency are recorded in [n] a plurality of recording regions as [the] said sampled data are separated into [n] a plurality of partial portions

including [the] said audio signals in their entirety, said reproducing [apparatus] method comprising the steps of:

reading [out] signals from said [n] plurality of recording regions of said recording medium; and

controlling whether signals of each of said [n] plurality of recording regions of said recording medium read [out] are to be reproduced [selectively] individually or signals recorded in at least two of [the entire] said plurality of regions are to be synthesized and reproduced.

--21. (Amended) A recording medium [at least] comprising:

a first recording region in which a first portion of audio signals [supplied] is recorded; and

a second recording region in which a second portion of audio signals [supplied] is recorded.

--22. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein [the] said recording medium includes a first recording layer in which said first recording region is provided and a second recording layer arranged in superposition on said first recording layer, said second recording region being provided in said second recording layer.

--23. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein said first recording region and said second

recording region are arranged so that one of either said first and said second recording regions is on an inner peripheral side of [the other] an other of said first and said second recording regions.

--24. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein one of said first and said second portions of said audio signals [supplied is a signal including] includes a lyric, [with the other] and an other portion [being a signal including the] includes accompaniment music.

--25. (Amended) The recording medium according to claim 21, wherein [there is recorded] a discrimination signal indicating [at least] whether [or not] said first and said second portions recorded in said first recording region and in said second recording region [at least] are to be summed or subtracted is recorded.

--26. (Amended) A method for reproducing a recording medium [at least] having a first recording region in which a first portion of audio signals [supplied] is recorded and a second recording region in which a second portion of said audio signals [supplied] is recorded, said recording medium having [recorded thereon] a discrimination signal indicating whether [or not] said first and second portions at least are to be summed or subtracted recorded on said recording medium, said method comprising the steps of:

reading said first portion from said first recording region and reading said second portion from [said first recording region and] said second recording region[, respectively];

reproducing [the] said first and said second portions read [out]; and

outputting [the] said first portion reproduced and [the] second portion reproduced based on said discrimination signal read [out] from said recording medium.

--27. (Amended) The reproducing method according to claim 26, wherein[, if] when said discrimination signal read [out] from said recording medium indicates summing said first and said second signals and reproducing [the] a resulting summed [signals] signal, said first portion read [out] from said first recording region and said second portion read [out] from said second region are summed [together] and [the] said resulting signal is reproduced.

--28. (Amended) The reproducing method according to claim 26, wherein[, if] when said discrimination signal read [out] from said recording medium indicates subtracting said first and said second signals and reproducing [the] a resulting subtraction [signals] signal, said first portion read [out] from said first recording region and said second portion read [out] from said second region are processed with subtraction and [the] said resulting signal is reproduced.

--29. (Amended) The reproducing method according to claim 26, wherein said first portion is read [out] by [sole] a single readout means from said first recording region of said recording medium, processed for replay, and buffered; and [wherein] said second portion is read [out] from said second recording region, processed for replay, and buffered.

--30. (Amended) The reproducing method according to claim 29, wherein signals obtained [on] by reproducing [the] said buffered first portion and signals obtained [on] by reproducing [the] said buffered second portion are processed and reproduced based on a discrimination signal read [out] from said recording medium.

--31. (Amended) The reproducing method [for a recording medium] according to claim 26, wherein one of said first portion of audio signals recorded in said first recording region [of said recording medium] and [the] said second portion of audio signals recorded in said second recording region [of said recording medium is] contains a signal including a lyric, [with the] and an other portion [being] contains a signal including [an] accompaniment music.

--32. (Amended) An apparatus for reproducing a recording medium [at least] having a first recording region in which a first portion of audio signals supplied is recorded and a second recording region in which a second portion of said

audio signals supplied is recorded, [said recording medium having recorded thereon] wherein a discrimination signal indicating whether [or not] said first and said second portions [at least] are to be output either of on summation [or] and on subtraction is recorded on said recording medium, said apparatus comprising:

readout means for reading said first portion from said first recording region and for reading said second portion from said [first recording region and said] second recording region[, respectively];

first reproducing means for reproducing said first portion read [out];

second reproducing means for reproducing said second portion read [out]; and

processing means for processing said first portion reproduced and said second portion reproduced based on said discrimination signal read [out] from said recording medium as an output signal from said first [reproduction] reproducing means and an output signal from said second reproducing means.

--33. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 32, wherein[,] if said discrimination signal read [out] from said recording medium indicates summing said first and said second signals and reproducing [the] a resulting summed [signals] signal, said first portion read [out] from said first recording region and said second portion read [out] from said second region are summed [together] and [the] said

resulting signal is reproduced.

--34. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 32, wherein[,] if said discrimination signal read [out] from said recording medium indicates processing said first and said second signals with subtraction and reproducing [the] a resulting subtraction [signals] signal, said first portion read [out] from said first recording region and said second portion read [out] from said second region are processed with subtraction and [the] said resulting signal is reproduced.

--35. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said first reproducing means includes a first reproducing processing unit for reproducing said first portion read [out] by said readout means from said first recording region and a first buffer memory for buffering output data from said first reproducing processing unit[,] and [wherein] said second reproducing means includes a second reproducing processing unit for reproducing said second portion read [out] by said readout means from said second recording region and a second buffer memory for buffering output data from said second reproducing processing unit.

--36. (Amended) The reproducing apparatus according to claim 32, wherein [said recording medium has recorded thereon] a discrimination signal is recorded on said recording medium.

said signal indicating whether [or not] said first and said second portions recorded in said first and said second recording regions [at least] are to be either of summed [or] and subtracted for outputting.--